

Archaeology Camp 2015

(Click on photos to enlarge.)

The third annual Archaeology Camp, co-sponsored by the South Dakota State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office, and the Army Corps of Engineers, was held on June 9-11, 2015. The camp, a three-day outdoor experience on a real archaeological site, worked with professional archaeologists. Participants were students going into grades 4-6.



Excavation Site

Students had an introduction to the field of archaeology. They learned why we conduct archaeological digs, what stories artifacts can tell us about the past, the history of fur trading posts, how to map a site, and how to use team-building skills.



In addition to excavation at the site, other fun activities included learning about the atlatl, an early Native American weapon, about historic pottery and making pots, learning about owls and dissecting owl pellets, and learning flint knapping, the method used to make historic tools.

Flintknapping

A trip to the Oahe Chapel, the Oahe Dam Visitor Center, and the Turtle Effigy was also included.



Oahe Chapel



Turtle Effigy

Students also spent time in the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society and got a behind the scenes tour of the museum collections area.